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# HOW LIFE BEGINS

THE STORY OF HOW NEW PLANTS AND ANIMALS  
COME INTO EXISTENCE

FOUR PARTS



LIVING EMBRYO OF CHICK 52 HOURS OLD

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# HOW LIFE BEGINS

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This microscopic biological film, the product of some eighteen months of work on the part of Mr. George E. Stone, A. B., in collaboration with Prof. J. A. Long, Ph. D., of the University of California, gives with scientific accuracy the methods by which new plants and animals come into existence. This complex subject is presented simply, clearly and in a most fascinating manner.

The authors show that, from the very lowest forms up to the highest, life comes only from life. All individuals arise only from other living creatures of their own kind.

There are several processes by which new life can arise. The simplest method is found in those plants and animals which consist of but one cell.

This method can be observed through a study of Protozoa, the simplest of all animals. Placing a drop of stagnant water on a slide, it is examined through the microscope, and at once a swarming mass of life is seen—the Protozoa. With a higher magnification, one Protozoan is observed to constrict in the middle and divide into two halves, each being, in reality, a new Protozoan.

The next step in the process of propagation, that of budding, is shown through a study of one of the Protophyta, one-celled plants. The microscopic plant chosen for this study is the common yeast, used in bread-making.

Higher and more familiar plants reproduce others like themselves either from cuttings or from slips. Accordingly, the growth of the geranium from a slip is shown, and that of a pea-vine from a seed.

The process of fertilization, by which ovules are transformed into seeds or peas, is made clear by means of animated diagrams and actual photographs. The part that insects play in carrying the pollen from flower to flower is interestingly illustrated, while, as a touch of beauty, a California orchard in full bloom is shown, together with views of the opening of the dainty blossoms.

With the same careful attention to detail, the authors proceed to show the methods by which higher animals reproduce their kind.

In the Sea-Urchin, close relative of the Star-Fish, we are shown the interesting process by which the eggs are fertilized in sea water and the manner in which the resultant division in the fertilized egg takes place.

The fact that fertilization in an animal is fundamentally the same process as that already seen in a plant helps to demonstrate the essential similarity of the plant and animal kingdoms. Equally im-

portant is the development of the parental instinct, as illustrated in the higher forms of life.

The life history of the beautiful Swallow Tail Butterfly is next shown, from the time the fertilized eggs are laid by the mother on the anise plant until, having passed through the caterpillar and chrysalis stages, the new butterfly emerges and takes its flight.

With equal detail the development of the frog is presented, from the laying of the eggs in some quiet pond and their hatching into wriggling pollywogs until they have developed into full-grown frogs.

Even more complete is the story of the chick. The marvellous unfoldment of the embryo is shown at frequent intervals for the first nine days; then comes the breaking of the shell by the imprisoned chick and its final emergence into freedom.

As a typical mammal, the white rat is chosen for presentation and its embryo shown at various stages, closing with a picture of the new-born rats in all their helplessness and, at a later stage, the mother rat's protective care of her offspring.

It is made clear that, just as the fertilized egg develops within the mother rat, so, by a similar process of growth, do other mammals, including the human being, come into existence.

The film closes with a picture of a modern Madonna and her babe, followed by that of the human trinity of father, mother and child silhouetted against the sunset.

This film, as will be seen from the synopsis given, does more than merely present scientific facts: it shows their relation to human life, and leaves in the mind of the observer a lasting inspiration.

Recognizing the value of this picture as providing a basis for right thinking and right living, its exhibition has been given by the War Department of the Government in every camp and cantonment, not only in this country, but in France as well.

The United States Public Health Service recommends it to State Boards of Health, and it is being extensively used by the various states in Public Health Campaigns.

It is also being used by the War Work Councils of the Young Men's Christian Association, the Young Women's Christian Association, by the General Federation of Women's Clubs, and by other national and international organizations.

It has been translated into foreign languages and is at present being used in France, Italy, China, Scandinavia and Siberia.

**GEORGE E. STONE, A.B., Berkeley, California**

**PRODUCER**

## COMMENDATIONS

DR. M. J. EXNER, Director, Sex Education Bureau, War Work Council, National Board of the Young Men's Christian Associations of the United States:—

"I am sure that you will be glad to know of the use we have been making of the film 'HOW LIFE BEGINS.' For many months we have had nine films in constant use in the military camps of the United States and in France. We have used the film as a basis for lectures in the interest of clean manhood and social welfare and they have served the purpose admirably."

MRS. WOODALLEN CHAPMAN, Chairman Social Hygiene Committee, Public Health Department, General Federation of Women's Clubs:—

"In my work as lecturer in the field of Social Hygiene, I have found the film 'HOW LIFE BEGINS' of inestimable value. To my mind, it is the greatest contribution to the work of sex-education that has yet been made. It not only gives, with scientific accuracy, knowledge that would require months of painstaking study to acquire, but by its logical and comprehensive manner in presenting these facts, it makes clear the meaning of sex and gives a better understanding of life itself."

DR. CLYDE FISHER, American Museum of Natural History, New York:—This picture is scientifically correct, and is the best pedagogical motion picture I have ever seen."

REV. WILLIAM SHEAFE CHASE, D. D., Diocese of Long Island:—"I consider it an epoch making picture. It overcomes the difficulty which has thwarted the bravest and most conscientious. It shows how to present the facts of sex life in an accurate, illuminating and inspiring manner, and lifts the whole subject out of mystery and nervous morbidness into beauty and holiness."

MOVING PICTURE WORLD:—"The picture is a revelation; a complete, simple and beautiful method of revealing, to child and adult alike, the wonderful dual system by means of which all life originates. The simplicity and delicacy with which the authors have followed their subject through the plant and animal kingdom will elicit unlimited admiration and gratitude."



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